

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A remote meter reading system comprising:
a meter reading system for sending metering information of a subscriber via an infrastructure of a mobile communication system to a remote control system in communication with the meter reading system for collecting the metering information of the subscriber, wherein the meter reading system comprises:

a meter reading unit configured for reading meterage information provided by one or more utility meters, wherein said one or more utility meters are associated with a single utility subscriber such that each utility meter measures the subscriber's usage of one type of utility from among a plurality of utilities used by the subscriber; and

a multiplexer for selecting meterage information provided by a first utility meter from among said one or more utility meters, wherein said selection is based on identification information stored in a first memory as provided in control information provided from the remote control system,

wherein the selected meterage information is transmitted to the remote control system over the mobile communication system.

2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the metering information is transferred to the remote control system via a short message service (SMS) of the mobile communication system.

3. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the mobile communication network operates based on a code division multiple access (CDMA) technology.

4. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the meter reading system further comprises:

~~a meter reading unit in communication with at least one utility meter;~~

a converter unit for converting meterage information provided by one of the utility meters into a digital signal; wherein the [[a]] multiplexer for selecting selects the digital signal;

a second memory for storing output data of the multiplexer; and
a third memory for storing the control information from the remote control system for
controlling the multiplexer's selection.

5. (original) The system of claim 4, further comprising:
a controller for controlling the multiplexer's selection based on number of meters in communication with the meter reading system.
6. (original) The system of claim 4, further comprising:
a processor for generating a short message comprising the digital signal selected by the multiplexer.
7. (original) The system of claim 6, further comprising:
a communication module for communicating the short message to the remote control system through the mobile communication network.
8. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein the communication module acts as an interface between the remote control system and the meter reading system to receive a message from the remote control system and transfer it to the processor.
9. (original) The system of claim 8, wherein when a message is received from the remote control system, the processor decodes the received message and stores identification information identifying the at least one utility meter.
10. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the controller controls the multiplexer based on the identification information.
11. (original) The system of claim 8, wherein the message received from the control system comprises instructions to cut off supply to a subscriber.

12. (original) The system of claim 8, wherein the message comprises at least one of:
an ID number of a subscriber;
an identifier of the utility meter;
meter-reading date and time information; and
information on failure of the meter and its energy leakage.
13. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the remote control system comprises:
a communication module for wirelessly communicating a message with the meter reading system;
a decoder for extracting metering information of a subscriber from the message;
a processor for managing the extracted metering information and generating at least one control signal for controlling the meter reading system; and
an encoder for generating a short message comprising the control signal and providing the short message to the communication module.
14. (original) The system of claim 8, wherein the message comprises at least one of:
an ID number of a target subscriber;
an identifier identifying a utility meter to be read;
time information indicating time for reading the meter; and
control information to control supply to the target subscriber.
15. (currently amended) A short messaging structure for communicating information between a meter reading system and a remote control system connected in a mobile communication network, the short messaging structure comprising at least one of:
a subscriber number of the meter reading system;
meter ID of a utility meter;
meter reading time for reading a utility meter; and
service control information for supplying utility to the subscriber
wherein the meter reading system comprises:

a meter reading unit configured for reading meterage information provided by one or more utility meters, wherein said one or more utility meters are associated with a single utility subscriber such that each utility meter measures the subscriber's usage of one type of utility from among a plurality of utility types used by the subscriber; and

a multiplexer for selecting meterage information provided by a first utility meter from among said one or more utility meters, wherein said selection is based on identification information stored in a first memory as provided from the remote control system,

wherein the selected meterage information is transmitted to the remote control system over the mobile communication system.

16. (original) The short messaging structure of claim 15, wherein the subscriber number identifies a subscribing household to utility services.

17. (original) The short messaging structure of claim 15, wherein the meter ID identifies a utility meter utilized to measure usage of utility service provided to a subscriber, identified by the subscriber number.

18. (original) The short messaging structure of claim 15, wherein the meter reading time provides a time for reading a utility meter identified by the meter ID.

19. (original) The short messaging structure of claim 15, wherein the service control information provides information to limit services provided to a subscriber identified by the subscriber number.

20. (cancel)

21. (currently amended) A mobile communication-based remote meter reading method comprising sending metering information of a subscriber from a meter reading system to

a remote control system in communication with the meter reading system via the infrastructure of a mobile communication system, wherein the meter reading system comprises:

a meter reading unit configured for reading meterage information provided by one or more utility meters, wherein said one or more utility meters are associated with a single utility subscriber such that each utility meter measures the subscriber's usage of one type of utility from among a plurality of utility types used by the subscriber; and

a multiplexer for selecting meterage information provided by a first utility meter from among said one or more utility meters, wherein said selection is based on identification information stored in a first memory as provided from the remote control system, wherein said identification information comprises a first identifier identifying the subscriber, and a second identifier identifying a utility type used by the subscriber;

wherein the selected meterage information is transmitted to the remote control system over the mobile communication system.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, further comprising transferring the metering information to the remote control system via a short message service (SMS) of the mobile communication system.

23. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the mobile communication network operates based on a code division multiple access (CDMA) technology.

24. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein a meter reading unit is in communication with at least one utility meter, the method further comprising:

converting meterage information provided by the utility meter into a digital signal; and selecting the digital signal.

25. (original) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
controlling the selection of the digital signal based on number of meters in communication with the meter reading system.

26. (original) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
generating a short message comprising the selected digital signal.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
communicating the short message to the remote control system through the mobile communication network.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the communication ~~module-network~~ acts as an interface between the remote control system and the meter reading system, the method further comprising:

receiving a message from the remote control system and ~~transfer~~transferring the message it to a processor in the meter reading system.

29. (original) The method of claim 28, further comprising:
receiving a message from the remote control system;
decoding the received message by the processor; and
storing identification information identifying the at least one utility meter.

30. (original) The method of claim 29, further comprising:
controlling the selection of the digital signal based on the identification information.

31. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the message received from the control system comprises instructions to cut off supply to a subscriber.

32. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the message comprises at least one of:

an ID number of a subscriber;
an identifier of the utility meter;
meter-reading date and time information; and
information on failure of the meter and its energy leakage.

33. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the message comprises at least one of:

an ID number of a target subscriber;
an identifier identifying a utility meter to be read;
time information indicating time for reading the meter; and
control information to control supply to the target subscriber.

34. (currently amended) ~~A remote control system in communication with a meter reading system for collecting the metering information of a subscriber, wherein the meter reading system sends metering information of the subscriber via an infrastructure of a mobile communication system to the remote control system.~~ The method of claim 1, wherein said identification information comprises a first identifier identifying the subscriber, and a second identifier identifying a utility type used by the subscriber;

35. (currently amended) ~~The system of claim 34, wherein the metering information is transferred to the remote control system via a short message service (SMS) of the mobile communication system.~~ The short messaging structure of claim 15, wherein said identification information comprises a first identifier identifying the subscriber, and a second identifier identifying a utility type used by the subscriber.

36. (currently amended) ~~The system of claim 35, wherein the mobile communication network operates based on a code division multiple access (CDMA) technology.~~ The method of claim 21, wherein said identification information comprises a first identifier identifying the subscriber, and a second identifier identifying a utility type used by the subscriber.